

	Men.	Women.	Total.
Patients actually in hospital, April 20, 1861	362	91	453
Admitted to November 30, inclusive	159	39	198
Whole number	521	130	651
Discharged	149	39	188
Eloped	14		14
Died	30	3	33
Remaining, December 1, 1861	328	88	416

Died with consumption, 7; acute mania, 4; ulceration of bowels, 4; epilepsy, 4; paralysis, 4; inflammation of brain, 2; marasmus, 2; effusion on brain, apoplexy, induration of liver, convulsions, and dropsy, one each.

Of the 319 patients admitted in the course of the year, only two, both of whom were women, were natives of California.

This report is essentially different in character from any other from the California hospital which has come under our observation. Aside from its statistics in relation to the patients, it is almost wholly devoted to the financial and material interests of the institution: and the particular object appears to be an exposition of the defects of the hospital as a curative establishment.

"Its beautiful edifice," says Dr. Tilden, "its well cultivated yards and garden, its wholesome food, its comfortable clothing, its scrupulously clean halls, rooms, beds and bedding, its excellent police regulations, combine in making a prison of the first class; and if such was the original purpose, I see not how it could have been more admirably accomplished. If, however, in creating a charity so munificent, so noble, it was intended to establish an asylum, with hospital appliances, for the cure, as well as the care and safe keeping of the insane, I am free to say it is, in my opinion, a most signal failure." And again, further on, he says: "If there is any marked difference between it and a well conducted State prison, it is in favour of the latter, from the fact that means of employment are provided for its inmates, while the inmates of the asylum spend their days in idleness." And again: "It will hardly be contended, I think, that our newspapers and a little gymnasium, with a solitary swing in the female department, can give the Asylum of California a claim to the character of a curative institution."

The principal defects mentioned are great overcrowding of the halls, with consequent foul air; the absence of appropriate furniture and means of labour, recreation, and entertainment; the impossibility of classification, and the consequent compulsory association of the educated and refined with the ignorant, the immoral, the debased.

P. E.

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ART. XXI.—*Medical Lexicon: A Dictionary of Medical Science, containing a Concise Explanation of the Various Subjects and Terms of Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, Hygiene, Therapeutics, Pharmacology, Pharmacy, Surgery, Obstetrics, Medical Jurisprudence and Dentistry; Notices of Climate and of Mineral Waters; Formulæ for Official, Empirical and Dietetic Preparations, with the Accentuation and Etymology of the Terms, and the French and other Synonymes, so as to constitute a French as well as English Medical Lexicon.* By ROBLEY DUNGLISON, M. D., LL. D., Professor of the Institutes of Medicine, etc., in the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia. Thoroughly revised and very greatly modified and augmented. 8vo. pp. 1047. Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea. 1865.

EVERY page of this new edition of Dr. Dunglison's well-known Medical Dictionary presents ample evidence of the very great care which has been exercised by the author in the thorough revision of the work; the important modifications it has, in consequence, undergone, and the numerous additions that have been made to it. It embraces, in its present form, unquestionably, a more complete and accurate list, than any other of the professional dictionaries in common use,

of the terms which appertain to the nomenclature of the different departments of medical science, as well those in use heretofore as those which have been introduced recently by the progress and discoveries which are constantly being made in every department of medicine.

The strictest attention has evidently been directed to give a correct and satisfactory definition, a true etymology, and a proper accentuation, adapted to lead to a just pronunciation of the several words embraced in the volume—to render it, in short, as far as possible, a complete, accurate, and useful lexicon of medical terms:—one, in searching which the inquirer will not be disappointed in finding all that he is desirous of knowing in respect to the proper usage of every word that has been legitimated into medical nomenclature.

We are free to confess that we know of no medical dictionary more complete; no one better, if so well adapted for the use of the student; no one that may be consulted with more satisfaction by the medical practitioner. Similar language we have held in reference to the work from its first appearance; we, nevertheless, admit with the author, that the edition before us presents “more claims on the attention of student and practitioner than either of its predecessors;” upon neither of them, it is evident, has the same amount of time and labour been expended.

D. F. C.

**ART. XXII.—A Practical Treatise upon Eczema, including its Lichenous, Impetiginous, and Pruriginous Varieties.** By T. M'CALL ANDERSON, M. D., Fellow of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Physician to the Dispensary for Skin Diseases, &c. &c. John Churchill & Sons. London, 1863.

DEVERGIE and Erasmus Wilson both assert that eczema constituted one-third of all the cases of skin disease which came under their care. The frequency of its occurrence in practice, the suffering it occasions, and its increasing prevalence of late years, leads us to believe that some notice of the treatise of Dr. Anderson cannot fail to be acceptable to our readers.

Following Hebra, the celebrated dermatologist of Vienna, our author has studied eczema in a more philosophical manner than has hitherto been done by the older British writers on skin diseases. Discarding the artificial classification of Willan and Bateman, he maintains that skin diseases are best classified not upon their elementary lesions, but according to the nature of the affection. He admits, however, the importance of the elementary lesion, which, in eczema, as he points out, may be a vesicle, a pustule, a papule, a fissure, or a mixture of several or all of these lesions, and he maintains that impetigo, lichen, and prurigo are merely varieties of that disease.

The most prominent symptoms of eczema are, the infiltration of the skin, the exudation on the surface, the formation of crusts, and itching.

We shall not stop to notice the many distinct appellations given to eczema in its different stages and from its various locations, which have tended so much to confuse students and retard our knowledge of the disease.

The *etiology* of eczema is fully discussed by our author. He states that the affection attacks, in preference, those of the lymphatic temperament, the scrofulous and debilitated, but that persons in the most robust health are also often affected. Improper, insufficient or bad food is apt to call it forth; and, on the other hand, a too liberal diet and too stimulating food and drink, and mental excitement occasionally predispose to it. Atmospheric vicissitudes may give rise to the affection; it occurs more commonly in summer and winter than in spring and autumn. It is sometimes apparently hereditary. Its occurrence is favoured by any occupation which heats the body and produces perspiration, especially on those parts which are in contact with one another; and it may be called forth by various stimulating applications to the skin. A varicose condition of the veins, keeping up a constant hyperemia of the parts, as we meet with most frequently on the legs and about the anus, is a powerful predisposing cause, as are also tumours pressing upon veins.